6. Better Marketing:

1. Circles have identified the bulk mailers of the traditional products and developed a suitable plan to target them to switch over to the corresponding premium products.

2. A monitoring system has been introduced at the Postal Headquaters and Circle Headquarters to watch the progress made by the Circles every month.

3. Promotional strategy product wise has been drawn.

4. Suitable incentive scheme for better marketing of Speed Post Service is being designed.

Telephone Adalats in Delhi

*85. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telephone Adalats are being organised in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of Adalats organised and cases settled in Delhi during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) whether there is a need to organise similar Adalats in other States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Year	No. of Adalats	No. of cases settled
1993-94	4	3775
1994-95	4	4144
1995-96	3	3296
	11	11215

(c) and (d) Telephone Adalats are being held in Telecom Circles/Districts of all the States/Union Territories.

Simplfying Passport Procedures

*86. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been growing demand to simplify procedures in order to expedite the issue of passports; and

(b) if so, the changes proposed to be incorporated in the existing rules?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The Government has introduced a number of measures to simplify procedures and expedite issue of passports in order to meet the growing demand for passports. These are inter alia:—

(i) Validity of a passport is either 20 years or 10 years, as requested, as against the present validity of 5 years.

(ii) Automatic re-issue of passport without police verification after expiry.

(iii) Decision to open new passport offices in Ghaziabad, Pune, Thane and Vishakapatnam and collection centres at Madurai, Gurgaon, Surat, Vijaywada and Shillong, for which plans are well advanced.

(iv) Expansion of the list of officers authorised to issue Verification Certificates to applicants include General Managers and above in Public Sector Undertakings of the Government of India and officers of the rank of Colonel and above in the Army and their equivalents in the Navy and Air Force.

(v) Monitoring Cell set up in Chief Passport Office Headquarters for speedy redressal of complaints.

(vi) Acceptance of photocopied passport application forms in lieu of printed forms, as may be convenient to the applicant.

(vii) Setting up of Passport Advisory Committees.

As a result of these measures, the backlog has been reduced and the issue of passports has been speeded up.

US quota for export of woollen items

*87. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. had imposed a limited quota on export of woollen items—men's shirts and women's blouses to U.S.A.;

(b) whether the matter was taken up with a Committee on World Trade Organisation in Geneva;

(c) whether WTO Committee has given its decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether the quota limit has been lifted?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The U.S. had imposed quota restrictioins on the exports of our woollen woven shirts ad blouses to the U.S.A. for a period of 3 years with effect from April 18, 1995.

The imposition of quota restrictions had been taken up with the textiles Monitoring Body (TMB) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). As the findings of the TMB were not in our favour, Government had taken up the issue in the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO. The DSB had thereupon set up a panel to make such findings on the matter as would assist the DSB in making appropriate recommendations or in giving appropriate rulings. The panel is likely to give its findings shortly.

Construction of bulk handling terminal at New Mangalore Port

*88. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders for construction of a bulk handling terminal at New Mangalore Port have been invited; if so, by when the work is likely to start; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) New Mangalore Port has invited global bids for construction & Licence out the operation, management and maintenance of multi user Bulk Handling Terminal with one/two jetties for handling coal or other bulk cargo for a period of 30 years on Build, Operate & Transfer basis. Last date for submission of bids is 21.1.1997. Work is expected to start on the finalisation of bids.

Funds to help injured army personci

*89. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of funds to help injured armymen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to look after the injured armymen with full care especially in Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Kirkee?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The injured Army men are treated in various Military Hospitals and in the Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Kirkee. The Military Hospitals are given